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# ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

LITERARY ASSOCIATION,

BLANDFORD, MASS., SEPT. 21, 1850,

UPON THE HISTORY OF THAT TOWN.

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BY WILLIAM H. GIBBS.

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PRICE TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

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SPRINGFIELD:

G. W. WILSON, PRINTER, CORNER MAIN AND STATE STS.

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1850.

## REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION.

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"WHEREAS, our President, Mr. WILLIAM H. GIBBS, in researches after the facts embodied in his Historical Address upon Blandford, has incurred much trouble and expense, therefore, —

"*Resolved*, That the members of the Blandford Literary Association consider it an able, interesting, and valuable document, well worthy of preservation, by which the compiler has not only conferred honor upon himself, but also produced a work which needs but an examination to be duly appreciated.

"*Resolved*, That in expressing our cordial thanks to Mr. GIBBS for this Address, we would earnestly request and advise its publication.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of the above resolutions, signed by the Secretary of this Association, be presented to Mr. GIBBS, as a testimonial of our regard for himself and his Address.

"HENRY B. LEWIS, *Secretary*.

"*Blandford, Mass., September 21, 1850.*"



## P R E F A C E .

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IN presenting this Address to the public, our only apology will be, the earnest request of the Association before which it has been delivered, and the encouragement and advice of many of our prominent townspeople.

We commenced its compilation with the thought, to amuse ourself in tracing out the numerous pleasing incidents connected with the early history and first settlers of Blandford ; and ultimately, if deemed worthy, to present the product of our labors to the present citizens, in the form of an Address. Our object is accomplished in the work which we now introduce to your favorable notice.

The plan has proved to be more difficult than we had anticipated. We should scarcely have undertaken it, had we conceived the perplexity and expense which the act involved. Many of the facts here presented, were obtained from a Historical Sermon, preached by the

Rev. John Keep, in 1821, and from a Centennial Address delivered in 1835, by Hon. Patrick Boies.

We have also consulted the aged people, who are living witnesses among us, diligently searched the town records, and visited the tombs of our ancestors.

Our acknowledgments are likewise due the following gentlemen, viz.: — Col. Justin Wilson, Reuben Boies, Esq., Mr. James Watson, Enos Boies, Esq., Mr. John Gibbs, and many others of our friends, for information furnished us, and to Mr. Francis H. Firmin, of Springfield, for his valuable attention during the publication.

We trust these brief pages will be found interesting, not only to the citizens of our own, but also to those of the adjoining towns, and of the State generally.

W. H. G.

*Blandford, October 1st, 1850.*

# ADDRESS.

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THE study of History, is now extensively regarded a useful as well as pleasing occupation. In the general history of a country we read the nation's biography, and from its bright and dark periods gather lessons to guide us in future action. Indeed from the history of smaller communities, our individual states and even towns, much interesting information may be gleaned. And no portion of history more deeply engages our attention than that which narrates the sufferings and triumphs of our immediate ancestors. In the history of our town, which fills but a brief chapter, we have collected the fresh memorials and recent traditions of our progenitors, and are enabled for the time to mingle with their spirits. To pursue a few reminiscences of the past history of our town, to bring again into notice some of those whose names we bear, and whose places we occupy, and to present such lessons as their experience may inculcate, is the purpose of this address. As the state records were burned in Boston, and as the early settlers kept no record until six years after the settlement, the materials for the commencement of this history are scanty and obscure. It appears from the facts which we are now able to offer, that about the year 1732,\* the land embraced in the town plot was granted by the General Court of the province of Mas-

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\* P. Boise's Address.



sachusetts Bay, to certain proprietors of common and undivided lands in the town of Suffield, Ct., as an equivalent for a tract of land taken from them in establishing the dividing line between Massachusetts and Connecticut. The dimensions of the township were then estimated at six miles square. The proprietors soon after conveyed the whole tract to Christopher Jacob Lawton, then a resident in Suffield. In January 1735, Mr. Lawton by deeds of conveyance, sold (2) *two* undivided fourth parts of the land to Francis Wells and John Faye, and in July of the same year he conveyed one undivided fourth part to Francis Brinley. In these conveyances by Mr. Lawton, there was made a reservation of certain portions as lots for settlers. Messrs. Lawton, Wells, Faye and Brinley thus became proprietors in common of the township. These proprietors engaged General Roger Newbury of Windsor, Connecticut, to survey the township and divide it into five hundred acre lots. Tradition informs us that the proprietors ordered the township to be surveyed seven instead of six miles square. This was a stratagem, and was carefully concealed from the Crown and Colonial Legislature to whom it was disguised as a mistake. Since, however, they had incurred a great amount of expense in the survey, the proprietors claimed the entire seven miles square, and the Colonial Legislature regarding the position as a frontier settlement, granted the bequest, but with one condition, that fifty emigrants should be procured and settled immediately, to repel the aggressions of the Savages, and afford a defence to the interior townships. To fulfill the stipulations entered into with the Legislature, the proprietors issued proposals for

the settlement of the first fifty families. Two sixty acre lots were promised as a reward, one of which should be located on the Main Street as it now runs, and the other in the Easterly part of the town, well known by the name of "second division," from its being the second range of lots. In view of the advantages of this offer, the fathers of this town came here from Hopkinton and vicinity, 34 miles west of Boston, to make the settlement. Previous to their coming, they sent a number of bold and courageous young men to select the best route and erect habitations for their reception. These hardy adventurers reached the center of this town in the latter part of April, 1735. On the day of their arrival, a severe snow-storm commenced and continued three days, leaving a body of snow on the ground to the depth of three or four feet. We can but faintly imagine their sufferings. No friends were there to administer consolation and comfort, no fireside sent forth a genial heat, no shelter save the Canopy of Heaven, to ward off the rude blasts.

But the snow soon began to waste, and the sufferers were enabled to prosecute the object of their pilgrimage. A few brush were cleared away, trees were felled, and temporary cabins were erected. The first families arrived the following Autumn, the residue the succeeding Spring. Hugh Black was the first man who arrived with his family. He settled near the place where Mr. John Osborn now resides. Nearly opposite Mr. Osborn's was erected the first dwelling house ever inhabited in Blandford. Here the wilderness first began to bud and blossom, the result of the toil and enterprise of civilized man. The next individual who emigrated

to this town with his family was James Baird. He erected a rude dwelling near the place where William Culver now resides, a distance of nearly four miles from Mr. Black's. Why did not these families settle in the same neighborhood? This question may be of difficult solution, except that we advert to the fact that those individuals who possess the enterprise and hardihood to penetrate the unbroken forest, manifest a preference for secluded homes, where the surrounding improvements may testify that "my hands did this." At the house of Hugh Black the proprietors began to number the farms they designed to give the first fifty families.

The settlers selected their farms by lot, and the names of several families who obtained farms on the west side of the town street, are left on record, viz: Messrs. Black, Reed, McClinton, Taggart, Brown, Anderson, Hamilton, Wells, Blair, Stewart, Montgomery, Boise, Ferguson, Campbell, Wilson, Sennett, Young, Knox, and Gibbs. The majority of the above-named persons became permanent residents upon the lots they drew. The north lot drawn was the one now occupied by Isaac Gibbs. The entire country between this house and Montreal in Canada, was a trackless wilderness without a single English inhabitant to relieve its gloom.

A fort had been constructed at Williamstown, and another at Crown Point, which were occupied only by a few soldiers in time of war. The nearest settlement was Westfield, ten miles east. The first *framed* house was erected upon the farm now occupied by Stephen Burton, and the first framed barn, upon that now owned by John Gibbs.

The team which drew the first cart that entered the



town, was driven by Widow Moses Carr while the men were repairing the road. It is said that the team belonged to Israel Gibbs, who settled upon the farm now owned by John Gibbs; and his son Israel was the first male child born in this town.

The number of families which emigrated with the second company, cannot be ascertained. Their progress in ascending the mountain through Russell, was laborious and disheartening. They commenced the ascent at "Sackett's Tavern," (on the old Westfield road), a distance slightly exceeding seven miles to the center of this town. The ascent of the mountain began on the margin of the river, and continued up a rocky ledge, which, from its rude and forbidding appearance, acquired the name of "Devil's Stairs." Such was the difficulty of forcing a passage up the hills and through the unsubdued forest, that the team was able to travel only two miles the first day. As night came on, they encamped in the forest. The second day they reached the top of "Birch Hill," and again encamped for the night in the midst of beasts of prey and venomous reptiles. On the third day, these wearied families arrived at their anticipated home, and seated in their log hut, participated in the bounties it afforded. That cabin was erected on the place now occupied by David Hamilton.

Soon after a part of these families removed farther north, in reaching their locality they had to pass through the "Causeway," then a pathless hemlock swamp. This passage required a day of severe toil. James Baird, an athletic man belonging to the company, was so fatigued in accomplishing this task, that on leaving the swamp, he immediately threw himself upon the

earth and quietly slumbered during the night beneath the branches of a large hemlock. His family consisting of eight persons, is believed to have removed with him. In a similar manner other families urged their toilsome way to their respective places of residence. The trial and perplexities which they endured, cannot be described! Probably there is not a parallel in the history of the settlement of any town upon the mountains.

But these discouragements are in a measure experienced in the settlement of all new colonies, not however in the *eminent* degree that they were by the settlers of these regions.

The adventurer who now penetrates the far west, may carry with him some of the comforts of civilized life, but when our fathers emigrated to this town, few of the luxuries of existence were known in the country, which may perhaps account for the health and vigor of their constitutions. These early settlers were men of great decision, boldness, and independence.

\* In 1737 the proprietors became owners of their lands severally by a † deed of partition. By this they

\* P. Boise's address.

† **This Indenture**, made the Thirtieth Day of March, In the Tenth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c;—and in the year of our Lord and Christ One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Seven, between Christopher Jacob Lawton, now of Leicester, in the county of Worcester and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, and late of Suffield, in the county of Hampshire and Province aforesaid. Esqr., of the first part, Francis Brinley of Roxbury in the county of Suffolk and Province aforesaid Esqr., of the second part, Francis Wells of Cambridge in the county of Middlesex and Province aforesaid.

apportioned between themselves (51) fifty one lots of land. Messrs Lawton, Brinley and Faye took thirteen

said Esqr. of the third part, and John Faye of Charlestown in the said county of Middlesex, Merchant of the fourth part. **Whereas** The said Christopher Jacob Lawton by his Deed Poll, bearing date the Eighth day of July, A. D. One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-five, among other things therein contained, did for the Consideration therein mentioned, Grant, Bargain and Sell unto the said Francis Brinley and his heirs, one undivided fourth Part (Except as in the said Deed is Excepted) of a Certain Tract of Land with the Appurteances, Situate lying being in the said county of *Hampshire*, on the west side of Connecticut River, which said Tract is reputed to be six miles square and was granted in or about the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Thirty two by the Great and General Court of the Province of the Massachusetts bay aforesaid, to the Commoners by Proprietors of the Common and undivided lands in the town of Suffield aforesaid as an equivalent for a quantity of Land taken from them in running the Line between the aforesaid Province and the Colony of Connecticut, and had been purchased of the aforesaid Commoners and Proprietors by the said Christopher Jacob Lawton and commonly called and known by the Name of the "GLASGOW LANDS." And also by two other Deeds Poll, both bearing date the seventeenth day of January, A. D. one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five (among other things therein contained) did for the Consideration therein mentioned, Grant Bargain and Sell Two other undivided fourth parts of the aforesaid tract of land (Except as the herein before first in part recited Deed and two last mentioned Deeds is excepted) To the above named Francis Wells and John Faye and their several respective heirs. To Hold the aforesaid Three undivided fourth parts of the said Tract of Land and premises to the use of the said Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye and their several respective heirs and assigns, That is to Say one of the said Three undivided Fourth parts apiece to each of them the said Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye and their respective heirs and assigns. Subject to a certain proviso in the herein beforementioned Grant of the said Great and General Court, Expressed and Contained as in and by the aforesaid Three Deeds Poll



lots aside from the two sixty acre lots given to each of the first fifty settlers. A grant was made of a ten acre lot

(relation being thereunto had) may now at large appear : Whereby the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye are become tenants in Common of and in the aforesaid Tract of Land (Except as is before excepted) and whereas the said Tract of Land (Except as is before excepted) by the mutual Consent and Agreement of all the said Parties to these presents, hath for the better making a Division and Partition of the same between them, and that each of the said Parties may hold and bring his part and proportion thereupon severally to himself, his heirs and assigns, been divided into fifty one \* \* \* \* \* Lots of Land laid out and numbered as in the Plan and Division thereof in the Schedule hereunto annexed and Subscribed by the said parties (with their respective names is expressed and set forth. **Now this Indenture Witnesseth**, That for Dividing and Parting the aforesaid Premises between the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye as is aforesaid. It is Covenanted, Granted, Concluded, and Agreed by and between the said Parties to these presents, and each of them for himself and his heirs doth Covenant, Grant, Conclude and fully Agree to and with each other and his heirs and assigns in manner following : That is to say, The said Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye, each of them severally answering for himself and his own acts only, and not one for the acts of the other, do for themselves and their respective heirs, Executors and Administrators, Covenant, Grant and Agree to and with the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, his heirs and assigns, that he the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, shall or may from henceforth have, hold, occupy, Possess and Enjoy the "THIRTEEN" following lots of the aforesaid Tract of Land, VIZ : NUMBER ONE, FIVE, TEN, FIFTEEN, NINETEEN, TWENTY THREE, TWENTY-SEVEN, THIRTY-ONE, THIRTY-SIX, FORTY, FORTY-FOUR, FORTY-NINE AND THIRTY Two, Lotts thereof as the same have been laid out and Divided by Mr. Roger Newbury of Windsor, in the colony of Connecticut \* \* \* \* \* and according to Plan and Division thereof contained by the above mentioned schedule hereunto annexed, to him the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, his

in the center of the town, for public uses and as a general common.

heirs and assigns in severalty in full satisfaction of his fourth part or share of the said tract of land and Premises to the only sole and proper use and behoof of himself his heirs and assigns forever. And that and notwithstanding any act matter or thing had, made, committed, suffered or done by them the said Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye or any of them free and clear of and from any lawful claims, Demands, and Incumbrances whatever, and the said Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye, have Remised, Released and Quit-claimed and each of them by these presents Remise Release and forever quit-claim unto the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, his heirs and assigns all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Property, Portion, Claim and Demand whatsoever of them, the said Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, and John Faye and every of them of in and to the aforesaid THIRTEEN Lotts of Land, and every Part Thereof herein before mentioned to be allotted, assigned and appointed by these presents to him the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, his heirs and assigns severally for his before-mentioned part and share of the aforesaid tract of Land and Premises, and the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Wells, and John Faye, each of them severally answering for himself and his own acts only and not one for the acts of the other, Do for themselves and their respective heirs, Executors and administrators Covenant, Grant, and Agree to and with the said Francis Brinley, his heirs and assigns that he the said Francis Brinley shall or may from henceforth have, hold, Occupy, Possess, and Enjoy the THIRTEEN following Lotts of the aforesaid Tract of Land, Viz: NUMBER FOUR, FOURTEEN, EIGHTEEN, TWENTY-TWO, TWENTY-SIX, THIRTY, THIRTY-FOUR, THIRTY-NINE, FORTY-ONE, FORTY-EIGHT, ELEVEN AND TWELVE, Lotts thereof, as the same have been laid out and Divided by the said Mr. Roger Newbury of Windsor, in the said colony of Connecticut Gent. \* \* \* \* and according to the plan and Division thereof contained in the above mentioned schedule hereunto annexed, to him the said Francis Brinley his heirs and assigns in severalty in full satisfaction of the fourth part or share of the said Tract of Land and premises, to the

The other lands in the town were laid out in 500 acre lots. It is here worthy of remark that the exact figure

only sole and proper use and behoof of himself his heirs and assigns forever.

And that notwithstanding any act, matter or Thing had, made, committed, suffered or Done by them the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Wells and John Faye or any of them free and clear of and from any lawful claims, Demands and Incumbrances whatsoever, and the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Wells, and John Faye have Remised, Released and Quit-claimed and each of them by these presents Doth Remise, Release and forever quit-claim unto the said Francis Brinley his heirs and assigns all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Property, Portion, Claim and Demand whatsoever of them, the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Wells, and John Faye, and every of them of in and to the aforesaid THIRTEEN Lotts, and every part thereof herein before mentioned, to be allotted assigned and appointed by these presents to him the said Francis Brinley, his heirs and assigns in severalty for his before mentioned part and share of the aforesaid Tract of Land and Premises; And the said John Faye, Christopher Jacob Lawton and Francis Brinley, each of them severally answering for himself and his own acts only and not one for the acts of the other. Do for themselves and their respective heirs, Executors, and Administrators Covenant, Grant and Agree to and with the said Francis Wells, his heirs and assigns, that he, the said Francis Wells, shall or may from henceforth, have, hold, Occupy, possess and Enjoy the TWELVE following Lotts of the aforesaid tract of Land, VIZ: NUMBER THREE, SEVEN, TWENTY-ONE, TWENTY-FIVE, TWENTY-NINE, THIRTY-FIVE, THIRTY-SEVEN, FORTY-THREE, FORTY-SEVEN AND FIFTY-ONE Lotts thereof, as the same have been laid out and Divided by the aforesaid Mr. Roger Newbury \* \* \* and according to the plan and Division thereof contained in the above mentioned schedule hereunto annexed to him the said Francis Wells, his heirs and assigns in severalty, in full satisfaction of his fourth part or share of the said tract of Land and Premises, to the only, sole and proper use and behoof of himself, his heirs and assigns forever. And that notwithstanding any act, matter or thing had,



of the town plot and the uniformity in the location and dimensions of the lots of land, form a system of order

made, committed, suffered or done by them the said John Faye, Christopher Jacob Lawton, and Francis Brinley or any of them free and clear of and from any lawful claims, Demands and Incumbrances whatsoever. And the said John Faye, Christopher Jacob Lawton, and Francis Brinley, have Remised, Released and Quit-claimed and each of them by their presents Doth Remise, Release and forever quit-claim unto the said Francis Wells, his heirs and assigns, all the Estate, Right Title, Interest, Property, Portion, Claim and Demand whatsoever of the said John Faye, Christopher Jacob Lawton and Francis Brinley and every of them of in and to the aforesaid TWELVE Lotts and every part thereof herein before mentioned to be allotted, assigned and appointed by these presents to him the said Francis Wells, his heirs and assigns in severalty for his before mentioned part and share of the aforesaid tract of Land and Premises. And the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Brinley, and Francis Wells, each of them severally answering for himself and his own acts and not one for the acts of the other, Do for Themselves and their respective heirs, Executors and Administrators, Covenant, Grant and Agree to and with the said John Faye, his heirs and assigns, that he the said John Faye shall or may from henceforth, Have, Hold, Occupy, Possess and Enjoy the THIRTEEN following Lotts of the aforesaid tract of Land, Viz: NUMBER TWO, SIX, NINE, SIXTEEN, TWENTY, TWENTY-FOUR, TWENTY-EIGHT, THIRTY-THREE, THIRTY-EIGHT, FORTY-FIVE, FORTY-SIX, AND FORTY-TWO \* \* \* \* \* Lotts thereof, as the same have been laid out and divided by the aforesaid Mr. Roger Newbury \* \* \* \* \* and according to the Plan and Division thereof contained in the above mentioned schedule hereunto annexed to him the said John Faye, his heirs and assigns in severalty in full satisfaction of his fourth part or share of the said Tract of Land and Premises, to the only, sole and proper use and behoof of himself his heirs and assigns forever.

AND that notwithstanding any act matter or thing, had, made, committed, suffered or done by them the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Brinley, and Francis Wells or any of them free

and arrangement which is not to be found in any other town in the county—if in the State. It was a method

and clear of and from any lawful Claims, Demands, and Incumbrances, whatsoever. And Lastly the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Brinley, and Francis Wells, have Remised, Released and Quit-claimed, and each of them by these presents, Doth Remise, Release and forever quit-claim unto the said John Faye, his heirs and assigns, all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Property, Portion, Claim and Demand whatsoever of them the said Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Brinley, and Francis Wells and every of them of in and to the aforesaid THIRTEEN \* \* Lotts and Every part thereof herein before mentioned to be allotted, assigned and appointed by these presents to him the said John Faye, his heirs and assigns in severalty for his before mentioned Part or share of the aforesaid Tract of Land and Premises. \* \*

**In Witness** whereof, the above named Parties to these presents have hereunto Interchangeably set their hands and Seals the day and year first above written.

CHRISTOPHER JACOB LAWTON, [*Seal.*]

FRANCIS BRINLEY, [*Seal.*]

FRANCIS WELLS, [*Seal.*]

JOHN FAYE, [*Seal.*]

Upon the back of the Parchment we find the following :

WORCESTER, ss. *Leicester*, March 30, 1737.

The within named Christopher Jacob Lawton, Francis Brinley, Francis Wells, Esqrs. and Mr. John Faye, personally appeared before me the subscriber, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county aforesaid, and severally acknowledged the within written instrument by them executed to be their free act and Deed

JOHN CHANDLER, JUNR.

*Signed, Sealed and delivered*

*In presence of us,*

JOSEPH HEATH,

JOHN HUSTON,

JOHN CHANDLER, JUNR.

well adapted to make certain the limits, preserve the boundaries, and secure the property of land-holders and purchasers. To this cause more than any other may be attributed that harmony which has so generally prevailed among the owners of land in this town. Few questions of disputed title have arisen to create disturbance and jealousy in the minds of the inhabitants; questions which have been the source of so much bitter controversy and expensive litigation in many other places.

In 1741 the town was incorporated by the name of Blandford; previous to that period it had borne the name of Glasgow.

The inhabitants of the city of Glasgow promised the citizens of this town, that if they would continue its former name they would present a church-bell to them. It was the design of the people that it should bear the name of Glasgow. Therefore they petitioned the General Court for that name. But William Shirley, who had been appointed Governor of the province of Massachusetts Bay under the Crown of Great Britain, had just arrived from England in a ship bearing the name of Blandford. In honor of said ship, he chose to have the new town which applied for an act of incorporation called by its name. Hence the name of Blandford instead of Glasgow was given to this town. This alteration would not have been made, it is supposed, had not the survey of Gen. Newbury embraced more territory than was originally intended. Hence by the gain of the proprietors the people lost the promised bell.

These early inhabitants were so poor that they were compelled to solicit many favors from the proprietors



of the town. They frequently petitioned the Colonial Legislature for grants of money and remission of taxes. This being a frontier settlement the court patiently listened to their prayers, and cheerfully imparted the solicited boon. At one time forty bushels of salt were given to the town to be distributed among the inhabitants.

In 1755 a special favor granted by the Court is noticed upon their records, and acknowledged in the following terms :

“By virtue of a petition put into the Great and General Court of Boston by the Rev. Mr. Morton in behalf of this town, the Honorable Court was pleased to grant us one *swivel* gun as an alarm gun, with one quarter barrel of powder and one bag of bullets for the same, and also one hundred flints for the use of the town, which we have received and paid charges on the same, from Boston to this town, which is two pounds and sixteen shillings old tenor, to Captain Houston.”

In 1758, owing to the embarrassing circumstances of the first settlers, the General Court discharged them from the obligation of furnishing their quota of men for the public service. In the spring of 1749, the Indians began to make encroachments upon the white settlers of the town, and all the families but four fled to the neighboring towns; some to Westfield, others to Windsor, Suffield, Simsbury, and Wethersfield, Conn. A portion of them returned the following autumn, the remainder the next spring. At an early period three forts were erected; the first upon a lot now owned by Elijah Knox, another upon a lot now owned by Col. Justin Wilson, and the third upon the farm now owned by John Gibbs.

At night all the families were collected into these forts. This state of things continued for the space of a year; and even long after that, on the least alarm, the inhabitants fled at dead of night from their own dwellings to seek refuge in these fortifications. How imminent and trying their situation! They seldom repaired to the field to their daily toil without taking fire-arms and placing a sentinel to keep guard while the others labored. Nor did they deem it safe to meet on the Sabbath for religious worship unarmed. These fears and dangers were incident to all the American settlements. The Indians, being the original and rightful occupants of the soil, were unwilling to relinquish their titles and the graves of their ancestors. Hence the frequent Indian wars which proved such a scourge to the colonies. However, the inhabitants of the mountains were less exposed to their depredations than those of the valley.

The banks of the great rivers were the common resort of the savages, while the mountains, abounding in deer and wild turkeys, served as an occasional hunting-ground.

The first person buried here was laid near the center School house, beneath a large chestnut tree; and if we are correctly informed, he bore the name of Gibbs. In 1742 a regular burial ground was laid out, in the south part of the ten-acre lot granted them by the proprietors.

Previous to clearing the ground, the inhabitants held a town-meeting, and voted the day and the precise hour of the day for the commencement of the work. Every male inhabitant who refused to appear and engage in the work at that time was to pay a penalty of six

shillings. The lot then selected now constitutes the burial ground.

For many years after the settlement of the town, our most wealthy farmers cut only sufficient hay to winter a cow and a few sheep. Those who kept horses were obliged to have them wintered in Westfield. Such persons, when they wished to obtain grinding, were first compelled to go to Westfield for the horse then back home to obtain the grain, and then return to the mill at Westfield, and again home and then back with the horse; making on the return a distance of sixty miles for one grist of meal. Many are the instances when they carried their grain and returned with their meal on foot, thus performing a journey with a load upon their back of more than twenty miles. Some families, considering the distance, fatigue, and time it required in going to and from mill, used to pound the corn in mortars.

The inhabitants who first settled at the center of the town obtained most of their hay for many years from North Blandford, where we are informed were two beaver dams; one stood where the factory dam now stands, and the other near the sawmill of Mr. Orrin Sennet. These were demolished, and the grass sprang up and grew luxuriantly.

The method of harvesting this hay was curious. Tradition informs us that the laborers — especially Israel Gibbs — used a straight stick, which answered a three-fold purpose, viz: as snath, rake, and fork; and it was so bungling that it was then, and even now anything that is coarse, is called "Gibbsey." A cow was taken to the meadow, fastened to a tree, and fed with the hay



while they labored there. The milk afforded them a healthful and nutritious beverage. From the circumstance of their harvesting hay at this place, they gave it the name of "North Meadow;" a name it has borne ever since.

In surveying the town into five hundred acre lots, a triangular strip was left, which was thence called by the name of the "Gore."

Some twenty years after the settlement of the town, a grist mill was erected upon the stream and farm now owned by Levi Sizer, known as "Bunnell's Mills." This was a convenience and gratification to the inhabitants. The next year after the construction of the grist mill dam, a salmon weighing thirteen pounds was taken in the pond. He must have ascended the stream, and in entering the pond must have scaled the dam in a sheet of water, which descended nearly ten feet perpendicularly.

The civil affairs of the town advanced as fast as could be expected in a situation so secluded, and where the inhabitants were devoted to agricultural pursuits. It appears from the records that our ancestors were deeply interested in the political questions that agitated the country at that early date.

The taxes, arbitrarily imposed upon the colonies by the Crown of England, constituted the principal grievance, and were regarded by the people of this town, in common with the entire country, as unjust and cruel; and they were prompt in selecting delegates in 1775, to attend conventions at Concord, Watertown, and Boston, hoping to obtain a redress of these grievances. The persons chosen to meet those particular assemblies were William Boies, William Carnahan, and William Knox.

When our national independence was declared, and the people rushed to arms against the mother country, some of our ancestors demurred and boldly avowed their loyalty to the King. Hence committees of safety were appointed, and several persons were forbidden to pass beyond the boundaries of their own farms. But it appears that these men occasioned the town but little trouble. The town defrayed its proportion of the expense incurred in the war, and furnished its quota of soldiers. In the memorable "76," though poor in purse, and at the same time taxed to the utmost of its ability to sustain the war, this town voluntarily selected a committee of enterprising men to collect money for those who would enlist as soldiers for the northern companies. In 1778 the town raised £106, and placed it in the hands of the selectmen, to furnish clothing for the soldiers. Also committees of safety, inspection, and correspondence were chosen, who were vigilant in watching the movements of the enemy, hoping to be ready for any emergency. In 1779 new troubles and difficulties arose among our first settlers. The money used for a circulating medium lost its value, and ceased to be the true representative of property. Indeed, there was no confidence in the paper money then issued by the Continental Congress. It was difficult to obtain credit, and certainly dangerous to give it. These embarrassing circumstances only stimulated them to value liberty the more.

About this time Justus Ashmun was chosen delegate to attend a convention at Concord, to deliberate upon this subject, and to prevent, if possible, the further depreciation of the currency. The town raised and

assessed six hundred and eighty-two pounds of the existing currency for military bounty, also to meet a demand brought against the town for blankets which were provided for those soldiers who were employed in the service upon the Hudson river. Most of the military stores used in the West during the Revolution were transported from Boston through this town. The roads were then so bad that twenty yoke of oxen and eighty men were required to convey a mortar over our hills on its way to West Point.

When the news reached this town that Burgoyne was marching from Canada down the Hudson, many of our fathers shouldered their muskets and proceeded to meet him. Isaac Gibbs received the intelligence at sunset, and during the evening moulded three or four hundred bullets, and was ready in the morning to mount his horse and repair to the scene of action.

He, together with others, arrived at Bennington just after the victory in that celebrated battle had turned in our favor. The fresh troops that had collected from the surrounding country were stationed as guards of the provisions that had been captured, while the regular soldiers, weary from hard fighting, enjoyed a season of repose. The prisoners taken at this battle were marched on their way to Boston through this town.

While here a severe snow storm occurred, which necessitated them to go into quarters, and occasioned them much suffering. They were quartered upon the town street, in houses, barns, and whatsoever could shield them from the severity of the weather.



The snow however soon dissolved, and gave them the opportunity to resume their march.\*

“It was amidst the scene of the revolution, in 1779 and '80, that the constitution of Massachusetts was formed by a convention summoned for that purpose.” Wm. Boies was chosen delegate to that convention. When the constitution had been prepared and was presented to the town for their acceptance, the inhabitants seemed to have mistaken their duty as well as their power. Instead of accepting or rejecting it, or particular parts of it, they chose a committee of eleven persons to revise and acquaint themselves with the new constitution, and report their opinion at a future meeting. The committee made their report with sundry amendments of their own, and the inhabitants voted to accept of the new constitution on condition that those amendments should be adopted. The vote stands thus: Yeas, 28; Nays, 1; Neutral, 13.

The constitution received the approval of a majority

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\*An incident occurred at the battle of Bennington, as I am informed by Mr. John Collester, an esteemed citizen and pensioner of the U. S., which, though unnoticed by any history of the revolution I have read, seems worthy of note. The prisoners were quartered in a church for the night, and placed under the care of seven sergeants, upon whom Mr. Collester was requested to keep a vigilant eye. About the middle of the night a crash was heard, and the soldiers rushed to the windows, when the guards were commanded to fire upon them. Seven were killed and restored. But morning opened a new revelation. The galleries of the church being weakened by the multitude of their occupants, had fallen, and crushed some and frightened others. Our aged and venerable townsman, on learning this fact, regretted the part he had acted, although in the discharge of his duty.

of the citizens of the commonwealth, and the inhabitants of the town acquiesced in its adoption, though it went into operation without the addition of their amendments. The story is briefly told, and yet it speaks volumes of praise for the memory of those whose names we bear, who sacrificed, and suffered, and bled for the freedom of their country and the altars of their God. Simple in their manners, unostentatious in their lives, they did not hesitate when the public duty called them to action, but met the crisis like resolute and decided men, and proved themselves the unwavering friends of their country, and the ever wakeful guardians of her freedom. With them, liberty was not what it too often now is — a watchword to rally a party. It was in them a sober, constant principle, engaging the heart, binding the conscience, and influencing the life.

About 1791 Mr. Gibbs, father of Martin and Linus Gibbs, purchased and brought into town the first single wagon used here. The neighbors regarded it as a curiosity, and their horses as he drove to church the first Sabbath, being affrighted, fled with as much precipitation as they do in our own day at the sight of the steam engine. It was a matter so strange to the people, that they actually proposed to call a town meeting to prohibit the use of wagons.

Previous to this time, heavy burdens were transported upon the backs of horses. A man, his wife, and two or three children would mount a single horse to attend church or to make a visit. The ladies of those days were great equestrians. It was a common occurrence for them to ride on horseback from Blandford to Western (now Warren), a distance of forty miles, in a day.

When a number of young ladies rode in company, they enjoyed much pleasure in trying the swiftness of their steeds.

The expenses of the revolutionary war, and the depreciation of the general currency, reduced almost to penury many of the inhabitants; and during a long period after the war, our agriculturists obtained but little *cash* for their produce. They cleared their lands and prepared the way for the future prosperity of the town. Peas, beans, flax and flax seed, were the *principal* articles of product. These articles were ordinarily transported to Hartford and exchanged for salt, various groceries, and such other goods as they needed.

The clothes worn in those times were principally of home manufacture. Not more than sixty years since, one of our first settlers was married in a white linen dress of her own manufacture.

About the year 1807, Amos M. Collins took up his residence in this town. He was a merchant of considerable wealth from Connecticut. His removal to this place makes an era in the history of the town. Previous to his arrival, the farmers had been devoted to the cultivation of grain and wool. The soil and locality seemed very unpropitious for this purpose, and Mr. Collins induced many of them to cease the cultivation of these articles and devote their lands to the production of butter and cheese. He asserted this to be a plan that would make them rich — proposed to purchase the cows and sell them to the farmers, and receive his pay in cheese. This proposal was accepted by many, and he proceeded to New York and purchased a large drove, which was distributed among the inhabitants.



But they were ignorant of the noble art of making good cheese. What could be done? Why, this town reformer passes from house to house on each succeeding morning and imparts to the good house wives all the needful instructions on this point. They soon caught the idea and produced cheese that would have disgraced no market. This change of occupation produced a mighty influence upon the wealth of the town. Previously, as we have stated, the people were poor—had little to take to market that demanded cash. Now the tables were turned; from being a town depressed by penury it has become the richest upon the mountains.

During the nine years that Mr. Collins resided among us, he amassed wealth,\* and it is supposed he enriched the town, at the least calculation, one hundred thousand dollars. He has since become a citizen, and a few years ago the Mayor, of the city of Hartford. Shrewdness and benevolence were prominent traits of that gentleman's character.

The facts we have just narrated furnish abundant evidence of the existence of the former quality. The latter may be attested by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance; an interesting evidence of it is also exhibited in the fact, that, subsequent to his leaving town he subscribed one hundred dollars to erect a new church. Nor ought we to omit to notice a frequent although homely saying among the farmers, viz: that "Mr. Collins was the making of this town." No higher eulogy than this need be coveted.

The name of Orrin Sage ought to find a prominent

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\* \$25,000 as we are informed by his book keeper.

place in this connection. He was the successor of Mr. Collins, and well supplied his place as one of the most successful merchants in Blandford. For more than thirty years he was extensively engaged in buying cheese. In this business he gave general satisfaction; "the pay was sure." He always paid the market price for that article of merchandise. Individuals from time to time desiring to obtain a large price, transported their cheese to the neighboring towns and disposed of it, but with frequent, and at times extensive losses. Mr. Sage was withal a benevolent man. He cherished a sincere desire for the general prosperity of the people. By his enterprise and economy he amassed a large property, and in time of distress the inhabitants found in him a true friend and benefactor; and we might well affirm, for many years he was "the Bank" of Blandford. The high standing he took in the moral enterprises of the day has obtained for him many warm and lasting friends. About two years since Mr. Sage removed to Ware, and is now President of the Hampshire Manufacturers' Bank. We are informed that he has lately made a donation of one thousand dollars to the Congregational Society of our town.

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## EDUCATION.

As may be supposed, the town was not favored with many educational privileges during the early part of its history. The habits of the people, too, were inimical to education. Only a few possessed an interest in the subject; but these few accomplished what they could. Those parents who were interested in education, for many

years taught their own children. The first action of the town upon the subject of schools, as appears by the records, was in September, 1756:

“ *Voted*, To grant three pounds to Be Layed out to Hyre a school-master. Said school to Begin the 17th of Feb’y at such places as the committee may direct.”

The first regular school in the town was taught by James Carter, a sea-captain, in the house of Robert Black. Mr. Black’s house was preferred to any other because it had two rooms in it. For several years after, the schools were kept in dwelling-houses, and continued only two months in the year.

In 1758, “ *Voted*, That the five pounds Given to us By the Honorable Corte and two pound more to Be applied for the use of schooling.”

1759 was the first year a school was taught by a female, as appears by the records. “Granted six pound for schooling this year. *Voted*, Chosen Israel Gibbs, James Mountgomery, William Michel to Be committee to Hiar a School Deame, and to Dispurs the money Granted by the town to Defra the charges of the schooling, and to employ a school master when they think it will be Best for the town for this year.”

In 1760 £10. were appropriated for schooling. In 1762 the town was divided into three school districts, and a vote passed at town meeting to build three school houses. One of these was erected in the pine grove near the house of George Cline, the second one near the residence of Henry Wilson, and the third near the place where Mr. Stanton Clark now lives. After the erection of these houses the people made rapid progress in education. A teacher was now employed



for three months in a year ; one month for each district. This was only eighty-eight years ago. How great the change since ! We pass from these times to a later period. In 1802 the town was divided into thirteen school districts. The same number now existing.

During the year 1805 Widow Jane Taggart bequeathed to school district number three twelve hundred dollars, to be expended for purposes of education within that district.

In 1808 the inhabitants obtained from the Legislature an act of incorporation and more ample power, by which they were enabled to manage the fund.

In March 1833 an additional act passed the Legislature, constituting the freeholders of the district the trustees of the fund. This fund was put at interest, and the amount is now twenty-five hundred dollars ; a fine sum to enable the district to prosecute its educational projects. With these moneys it surpasses any district in town in the facilities for a good education. We regret to be compelled to state here that a prolonged and expensive litigation has grown out of this noble bequest. What might else have proved a refreshing remembrance has become a subject of fiery discord. By the aid of this fund, the inhabitants of the district have been able to maintain a select school for twenty years, from three to six months each year. This school is at present under the instruction of Mr. Henry B. Lewis, a skillful and experienced teacher. A select school has also been sustained at the center of the town a portion of the time for several years.

The following is a list of the students we have furnished for the colleges :

Eli Boise, son of Deacon Samuel Boise, entered Yale College in 1788, and died before he finished his education. He was the first young man who went to college from this town.

William Boies, son of David Boies, Esq., graduated at Williams College in 1801. He studied divinity with Rev. Doctor Bacchus, of Somers, Connecticut, settled in Tinmouth, Vermont, afterwards removed to Watertown, Ohio, and died in 1823.

Joseph Boies, son of David Boies, Esq., graduated at Williams College in 1807. Studied law and located in Greenwich, New York..

Patrick Boies, son of Reuben Boies, Sen., graduated at Williams College in 1808. He is now a lawyer in Westfield. Granville claims him "by adoption," we claim him by birth and early education.

Artemas Boies, son of David Boies, Esq., graduated at Williams College in 1816. He was pastor of a church in Charleston, South Carolina, for a few years, afterwards at South Hadley, Boston, and New London, Connecticut. He died at the latter place in 1844.

Gardner Hayden, son of Joel Hayden, graduated at Williams College in 1816. He is now a settled minister in Brunswick, New York.

J. Hooker Ashmun, son of Eli P. Ashmun, Esq., graduated at Williams College in 1813. Read law in Northampton, afterwards became professor in the law school at Harvard University, and died in 1833.

Hon. George Ashmun, son of Eli P. Ashmun, Esq., was a native of this town, removed to Northampton when four years of age, graduated at Yale College in 1823. Is now a lawyer of the firm of

Chapman, Ashmun, and Norton, in Springfield, and Representative to Congress from the sixth district.

Lester Lloyd, son of John Lloyd, graduated at Williams College in 1814. He studied law in this town, and is now practicing in Ohio.

Lucius Smith, son of Asa Smith, graduated at Williams College in 1817. He read law in this town—practiced for several years in his profession in Ohio, and died in 1840.

Horace Smith, son of Asa Smith, graduated at Williams College in 1819. He read law in Worthington, and soon after died in that town.

Asa Blair, son of Captain Asa Blair, graduated at Yale College in 1810. He was settled a few years in the ministry at Kent, Conn., afterwards removed to Georgetown, S. C., and died some twenty years since.

Harper Boies, son of William Boies, graduated at Williams College in 1825. Studied divinity and settled in Harpersfield, New York.

John P. Boies, son of William Boies, graduated at Union College, Schenectady, read law in this town for several years—practiced in the lower Courts in Illinois, and is now Judge of a Circuit Court.

Augustus Collins, son of David Collins, graduated at Williams College in 1825. He went South, engaged in teaching, and died about 1830.

Aratus Knox, son of Eli Knox, entered Washington College, Hartford, Connecticut, in 1825; died a short time previous to completing the course.

Russell A. Wilson, son of Andrew Wilson, graduated at Union College in 1823, at twenty years of age. He commenced the study of law with L. Ogden,



Esq., in Catskill, New York, and finished with H. Jones, Esq., of Stockbridge — located in this town, and died in 1838.

Eli W. Lloyd, son of James Lloyd, 2d, was a member of the senior class in Union College, and died in Ohio in 1834, aged 22.

Samuel Knox, son of General Alanson Knox, graduated at Williams College in 1833; read law with his father in this town, is now a lawyer in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Custing Eels, son of Joseph Eels, graduated at Williams College in 1830, studied divinity with Rev. Doctor Cooley, of Granville, and is now a missionary among the Indians in Oregon.

Simeon Shurtleff, son of Amasa Shurtleff, graduated at Amherst College in 1834. He is now a successful physician in Westfield.

Chauncey Hall, son of Dr. Eli Hall, graduated at Amherst College, in 1835, is now practicing medicine in Northampton.

Edwin Hall, son of Doctor Eli Hall, graduated at Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1837, and is now a settled minister in Guilford, Connecticut.

Tyrrill Blair, son of Doctor N. Blair, graduated at Williams College, and is now a settled minister in Durham, New York.

D. P. Robinson, son of Zelotes Robinson, graduated at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, in 1841. He is now engaged in the mercantile business in this town.

James R. Boise, son of Enos Boise, Esq., graduated at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island,

in 1844. He is now a Professor of "the Greek Language and Literature," in that University.

Franklin O. Blair, son of Linus Blair, graduated at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, in 1848. He is now principal of the Springfield Wesleyan Seminary, at Springfield, Vermont.

James C. Hinsdale, son of Rev. Charles J. Hinsdale, graduated at Yale College in 1848. He is now reading law in Springfield.

Patrick R. Boies, son of Reuben Boies, Esq., graduated at Williamstown in 1843. He is now a successful lawyer in Chicopee.

Fisher A. Boies, son of Reuben Boies, Esq., graduated at Williams College in 1849. He is now reading law.

Daniel Butler, son of Captain Henry Butler, received a liberal education, and is now a Congregational minister in Connecticut.

Henry Smith Atwater, son of Russell Atwater, received a liberal education, and is now an Episcopal minister in Otis.

We should not overlook the few female students which our town has produced, viz :

Catharine Wright, daughter of Doctor S. P. Wright, graduated at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1842.

Celia Wright, daughter of Doctor S. P. Wright, graduated at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1846. She married the Rev. Mr. Strong, and went as a missionary to the Choctaw Indians in December 1846, and died in 1850. Her remains were brought to this town by her bereaved husband, and interred in the family ground.

Sarah Hinsdale, daughter of Rev. Charles J. Hins-

dale, graduated at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1846.

Mary Pease, daughter of Deacon Eli Pease, graduated at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1846.

Mary P. Boies, daughter of Reuben Boies, Esq., graduated at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1850.

Our town has not been deficient in talent. Some superior men have issued from her bosom, who had not the advantages of a collegiate education. Eli P. Ashmun was the first lawyer who took up his residence in the town. As an advocate he was not inferior to any in the counties of Hampden and Hampshire. Mr. Ashmun subsequently represented Massachusetts in the United States Senate. George Ashmun, our present representative in Congress, a man of decided wit and practical talent, was born among us.

General Alanson Knox, son of Elijah Knox, read law with Eli P. Ashmun, Esq., and was his successor in the practice of law in this town. He now resides in Ohio.

Reuben Knox, son of Elijah Knox — a skillful physician, practiced for several years in North Carolina, and is now engaged in his profession in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Joseph Knox, son of Elijah Knox, read law with General Alanson Knox, and is now counselor-at-law in Rock Island, Illinois.

William Blair, son of Asa Blair, is now a lawyer in Westfield.

Phineas Blair, son of Rufus Blair, read law, located in Boston, and died in 1848.

David Scott, son of John Scott, read law in this



town, located in Pennsylvania, and some ten years since was appointed Judge of a Circuit Court.

George Scott, son of John Scott, is a lawyer, who has held stations of trust in Towanda, Pennsylvania.

David Scott, son of Benjamin Scott, is a physician now practicing in Pennsylvania.

Anson Boies, son of Samuel Boies, was a physician located in Chester. Now dead.

Eli and Levi, sons of Samuel Boies, are physicians; one of them settled in Homer, the other in Brookfield, New York.

Thomas Baird, son of Aaron Baird, read law in this town, and settled in Ohio.

Eli and Otis, sons of David Boies, are physicians; the former is now practicing in Huntington, the latter in Lime, Ohio.

Albert Boies, son of David Boies, for several years practiced law in Whitehall, New York, and died in 1840.

William Baird, son of Aaron Baird, studied medicine with Doctor S. P. Wright, located in Deertfield, and died in 1838.

Chester W. Freeland, son of James Freeland, is a physician, and is located in Becket.

Edward Hatch, son of Linus Hatch, completed the study of medicine with Doctor Bryant in 1846. He is now a physician in Meriden, Connecticut.

Lewis J. Blair, son of Charles Blair, qualified himself for the practice of medicine — located in Springfield, Ohio, and died in September, 1849.

Lester, son of George Noble, studied Dentistry with Doctor Keep of Boston, and made the notable set of teeth by which the body of the late Doctor Parkman

was identified. He was a prominent witness in the case, *Commonwealth vs. Professor John W. Webster*, and is a superior Dentist.

Samuel S. Rogers, son of Joseph Rogers, is a physician, now in California.

Noah S. Bartlett, son of Delano Bartlett, is a Dentist and Physician, and is now practicing in Chester Village.

Stanley Lucas, son of ——— Lucas, is a dentist and physician, now engaged in the practice of the same at Chester Factories.

Roswell, son of Giles Tracy, a young man of the first order of talents, studied Medicine in Northampton, and while there, assisted in dissecting the bodies of Daily and Halligan. He went South and died soon after he commenced practice.

Some years since, the Rev. Doctor Cooley, of Granville, remarked to E. Boies, Esq., that he did not know of any town on these mountains, which had raised up and educated so many great and good men as Blandford. We desire no higher eulogy.

Since the year eighteen hundred the town has appropriated twenty seven thousand dollars for educational purposes; an average of five hundred and fifty dollars per year. Seven hundred dollars has been appropriated the present year, and we hope the time will soon come when the town will appropriate, at least, two-thirds as much as the inhabitants now pay out for the noxious weed tobacco;\* which is, as nearly as we can ascertain, about fifteen hundred dollars per year.

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\* Probably there is more money paid out for this article than is raised for the support of the Gospel.

The cultivation of the intellect and moral sentiments of the youth is of vast importance. Parents cannot possibly bequeath a more valuable legacy to their children. Certain it is, this century will stamp upon the next its character. Every generation forms the reputation of the succeeding one.

It is true our town has done much, perhaps more than any town on these "Heaven Kissing Hills," for the rising generation. But she is abundantly able to do more; and when the question shall again come up in our town meetings to raise one thousand dollars for the support of the schools, we hope some of our wealthy farmers, who have their thousands at interest, will not hang back, while others are struggling to assist the youth in ascending the hill of science. We should remember that we are transacting business for another generation, which is soon to take our places in society. A greater good cannot be conferred upon those who are to succeed us, than that they be thoroughly fitted and qualified for the duties of life.

## ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

\* "Most of the first settlers organized into a church under the Presbyterian form and usages, before they left Hopkinton. Their attention was early and earnestly directed to the establishment of the gospel ministry

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\* P. Boise's Address.



in this place. They seemed to feel as if their prosperity and well-being depended upon this object. The measures taken for hiring and ordaining ministers were transacted in town meetings, and, as appears from the journal of proceedings, formed a greater portion of the business of the meetings. It was the only purpose for which they seemed willing to raise money and pay taxes. The church, as an independent body, gave the invitation to the ministers, and transacted the business necessary for their ordination, while the town acting in a parochial character, gave advice and direction to the church.

The presbyterian mode of government was continued until the year 1801. In the month of September, of this year, the church finding it 'inconvenient to practice according to the Presbyterian plan of government,' adopted a new and separate form of government, viz : the congregational."

The Rev. Mr. Keep gives the following description of the first meeting-house erected in this town : —

"The original proprietors of the town entered into covenant with the first settlers, to set up a frame of a meeting house, and to cover the outside, and put in glass windows. This they were to do for the people, besides giving them ten acres of land in the center, for a common, and one hundred sixty-acre lots. The frame of the meeting house was set up in 1740. The men who assisted in raising it were most of them from Westfield and Suffield. The frame stood one year, the sport of winds and tempests, before it was covered. The boards which were used for the covering were brought from Southampton and Westfield. But the glass windows

were not supplied until after a lapse of more than twelve years. Thirteen years the people met in the house for worship without any floor in it, excepting some loose boards, the earth, and the rock upon which it stood. Their seats were blocks, boards, and movable benches. A plain box, instead of a pulpit, was used for the accommodation of the preachers. The first floor was laid in 1753, four years after the ordination of their second minister. In 1759 they "*Voted*, To build a pulpit, to make a pew for the minister, and to build seats in the body of the house, upon the ground floor." This was a great effort as it was carried into effect. It was next allowed to individuals who felt disposed, to occupy either side of the house with pews, if they would make them at their own expense, and finish them by the end of the year, and build up the walls to the girts. In 1760 it was voted to lay the floor in the front gallery. The next year the gallery timbers on the sides were put up, and the stairs built. In 1781 it was voted to take up the seats in the body of the house, except two next to the pulpit, and to fill up the ground floor with pews. In the following year the two side galleries were made by taking the seats from below, and the walls ceiled, up to the girts. In 1686 the house (forty six years from the raising of the frame) was plastered. The steeple was built by subscription. In 1789 the town voted to give the subscribers liberty to erect a steeple, but refused to appropriate any thing in aid of it.

The year following the town agreed to purchase a bell. In 1791 measures were taken to put on a new covering and to paint the same. In 1794 the timbers under the gallery were covered, and in the Autumn

of 1805, a few days previous to my ordination, the posts and some other timbers were cased, etc. Such is a brief history of this house for religious worship, and all must allow, considering the manner in which it was built, that its appearance is quite as good as could be expected. We may look around these walls and say, — “Sixty and five years was this house in the process of building.” But we cannot add, — “Its glory corresponds with the use for which it was designed,” or “the circumstances of the people for whose accommodation it was erected.” Nor can we say, — “Lord, we offer the first and the best.”

Mr. Keep also says, that “previous to 1775 the method of singing had been for all who felt disposed to join their voices, while the clerk or deacon read the line of the psalms as they were sung. To this method some were so attached as to plead a wounded conscience when any change was proposed.” The leaders of church music were chosen at town meetings, and were under the implied, if not expressed direction, to conduct the singing in the “good old way.” A modern chorister may smile at the following vote, passed as late as 1771. The question was raised whether the singing should be carried on with the beat? — it was voted in the negative.

Caleb Taylor, of Westfield was the first singing-master who taught here; and when he named the tune and sang with the beat, many were so grieved at the indecency of the method, that they actually left the meeting-house. I have always noticed that the maintenance of good singing in religious assemblies is attended with many difficulties. Old people are sure



to object to any change. The youth are often inconstant, and money is very grudgingly appropriated for that purpose. From early youth I have been conversant with this subject, and I say, unhesitatingly, that churches and religious societies are criminated by neglect of singing. Every congregation should make provision for the support of singing, as well as for the ministry, or for a comfortable house to worship in.

This church has been favored with talented preachers, who have exerted a salutary influence. Look at the graduating list of our colleges. Notice the number which have gone forth to preach "Christ and him crucified" from this town. The following are the names of the pastors who have been settled over this society.

Rev. William McClenathan	settled,	1744
" Mr. Morton	<i>Enosby</i>	" 1749
" Joseph Patrick	"	1772
" Joseph Badger	"	1787
" John Keep	"	1805
" Dorus Clark	"	1823
" Charles J. Hinsdale	"	1836

Blandford took the lead in this region by erecting a new house for religious worship. This church edifice which was built in 1822, has been an honor to the town, and is spoken of abroad as being the noblest on the mountains.

In regard to the Episcopalian Church, we have not been able to learn much of its early history. We are informed, however, that about the year 1790, the Rev. Mr. Badger asked for a dismissal from the Presbyterian Church, but was refused by his church

and society. This placed Mr. Badger\* in a dilemma from which it required no little stratagem to extricate himself. To succeed in his wishes, it is said he commenced preaching with great power and efficiency the doctrine of unconditional election. This caused a division in the congregation. The disaffected portion separated from the other, and established a new church after the form of the Church of England. This church sustained preaching a part of the time, until about the year 1830. At this time the church erected an Episcopal church edifice. The institutions of the church were sustained for about fifteen years. They have a snug fund, the object of which is to sustain the ministry.

In the year 1826 a Baptist church was organized, consisting of about forty members. The following year the Rev. Charles A. Turner was ordained, and preached here for several years. During his ministration numbers were added by baptism and profession to the church. There are several worthy families who have sustained preaching a part of the time until the past year. We are informed their number is now thirty-five.

Within the last few years two vigorous and flourishing Methodist Episcopal societies have sprung up; the one at North Blandford, the other at Blandford Center.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church erected their church edifice in North Blandford in 1845. The Rev. Mr. Bigelow, then their stationed minister, is

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\* Mr. Badger succeeded in his enterprise.

entitled to much credit for his activity, prudence, and wisdom in uniting the people to build a house of worship. In the years 1846 and 1847 the Rev. Mr. Braman was stationed here. His labors much increased the congregation. In the years 1848 and 1849 the pastoral labors of the Rev. Mr. Sherman were highly appreciated by the church and congregation. The Rev. Mr. Wood is the present minister. Mr. Wood has already (although he has been with us but a short time) manifested a deep interest in the cause of popular education, and is evidently one of those men who perceive the importance of beginning at the foundation of society to exert a moulding influence. This church gives great promise of doing extensive good. Hitherto its influence has been salutary, and we trust still more numerous and healthful influences will emanate from it.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Center has been quite prosperous since its organization. The names of D. P. Robinson, Esq., and Rev. N. E. Cobleigh, may be appropriately noticed in this place as persons who accomplished much for the society in its infancy. Much praise is due the Rev. Mr. Cobleigh, who toiled and sacrificed to organize a society, and to erect a place of worship, in the years 1846 and 1847. About this time there was a transfer of many members from the first Methodist Episcopal Church to the second. In the years 1847 and 1848 the Rev. Mr. Ward was stationed over this church. In the years 1849 and 1850 their present pastor, the Rev. Mr. Chapin, has been more vigilant than any of his predecessors in looking after the interests of this church.



A Methodist Episcopal society of great antiquity exists in the south part of the town, known as "Beach Hill." A portion of the congregation is collected, however, from the adjoining town of Granville. In the view of Methodists, many precious memories cluster about that society. There their fathers assembled and worshipped God. There the young received many of the most salutary instructions ; and there, too, many were brought from darkness into light, and made children of God.

We ought here to notice that an annual conference was held there more than half a century ago, the only one ever held upon these mountains. Some of our people attend a Methodist Episcopal Church at Chester Village, which, however, stands in Blandford. In all, not less than \$1,000 is annually raised for the support of preaching.

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## ROADS.

THE first settlers of this portion of the State must have had romantic notions ; for it appears they were in the habit of building their roads over the highest hills, it being so much nearer, we suppose, to go over a hill than around it, — so much easier for horses, and so much more agreeable to travel upon, especially in winter. We are informed that when the first road was made from Springfield, west, the pioneers who laid it out traveled to the top of the first hill, then started for

the highest peak of the next, and so on, until they arrived at Albany. And what is still more remarkable, they endeavored to locate their meeting-houses as near heaven as possible, — placing them on the summit of the highest hills.

A road was laid out from Springfield to Great Barrington, which passed through the south part of this town, soon after its settlement. We obtained a copy of a grant, from the State Records, of 300 acres of land to a Mr. Pixley, who was to "have, occupy, and own said land," if he fulfilled the following conditions, viz.: — "Provided that the said Pixley shall erect a public house upon the mountains, half way between Springfield and Great Barrington; and that the said house shall be forty feet long, twenty-five feet wide, and nine feet posts, &c., &c.; and that the said Mr. Pixley shall provide wholesome food for travelers, hay and grain for horses, at the usual prices, &c., &c."

Tradition informs us that that house was erected on the farm now owned by Almon J. Lloyd, and that for several years it had no floor nor chimney. A fire was constantly kept upon the ground in the center; logs eight and ten feet long were drawn in by a horse and rolled upon the log heap fire! the smoke passing out through a hole in the roof. This location was favorable to Mr. Pixley, on account of a large meadow which for years had been covered by water in consequence of a "beaver dam." By removing this dam, grass grew in abundance, and was easily obtained. The meadow is now owned by James L. Shepard.

Roads in those days were hardly worthy of the name, and in fact were nearly impassable. It is said

that two men sank down and expired on their way to Great Barrington. For many years the only way of transporting heavy merchandize was upon a dray. In 1795 a mail route from Springfield to Kinderhook, New York, passed through this town. In 1806 a mail route was established from this town to Hartford. Enos Boise, Esq., was contractor until 1828. Since then, his son, Watson E. Boise, has been contractor.

When stages first passed through Blandford, from Springfield to Albany, they passed along over the town street, by the house of Capt. Lester E. Gibbs. And perhaps it will not be boasting for us to state, that for six miles on this road, there are better farms than on any other road for the same distance upon the mountains. In 1829 a turnpike was laid out through the poorest part of the town. Strangers passing over this road form an unfavorable opinion of our soil and enterprise. Soon after the completion of the road, an honest Shaker came along and called upon a blacksmith, and remarked that he supposed it was necessary to sharpen the noses of sheep with steel to enable them to pick grass from among the rocks and stones. Stages *ran* (where it was level) upon this road, and carried the mail until the Western Rail Road went into operation.

Since the year 1800 the town has appropriated \$53,560 for the building of roads and repairs of highways.



## LIST OF POSTMASTERS.

### BLANDFORD.

	Appointed.		Appointed.
Timothy Hatch,	1795	Luther Laffin,	1832
Russell Atwater,	1802	Orrin Sage,	} 1833
Joseph Bull,	1804	re-appointed,	
A. M. Collins,	1808	Enos Boise,	1848
Fordice Sylvester,	1818	Theodore Wilson,	1849
Orrin Sage,	1822	Lucius B. Shepard,	1849

### NORTH BLANDFORD.

Lyman Gibbs, 1828 | Geo. C. Collester, 1849

## POPULATION.

The population of the town at different dates was, —

In 1790,	1,416	In 1830,	1,590
" 1800,	1,778	" 1840,	1,427
" 1810,	1,613	" 1850,	1,515
" 1820,	1,515		

The reason why our number of inhabitants has decreased since 1800, may be attributed to the fact, that, previous to that time, two sixty-acre lots, or one hundred and twenty acres, were considered a large farm. But after learning the art of making cheese, which was profitable, they increased the size of their farms by buying out their neighbors, who moved away. Now, many of our farmers own from two hundred to

five hundred acres. And the establishment of the Western Rail Road likewise drew the inhabitants to the towns upon the line of that road.

## TEMPERANCE.

Our town records exhibit many interesting facts, indicating a vast change in the habits of the people in this respect, which is worthy of notice. We copy a few votes from the records.

1757. “ *Voted*, To give Mr. Root 6 pence Lawful money for Each Meal of Vittles each member of the council shall eat in the time that they shall Seat Hear on our Business, and also 18 pence old tenor per Night for each Member of the Council’s lodging, and that the town pay Mr. Root for the strong Drink that the Council drink while they are Hear on our Business, saving Syder at their Vittels.”

During the same year, “ *Voted*, That the town shall pay to Dea. Israel Gibbs and Samuel Carnahan the first Cost for the Rum and sugar the Council shall Need while they Seat Hear.”

We learn, also, from the records, that for many years the inhabitants at their town meetings adjourned for one hour to the tavern; and on their return but little business was usually accomplished.

In the year 1781 twelve town meetings were held; and it appears that the principal business was to adjourn to the “Slaughter-house.” Tradition informs

us, that in those days the man who could drink the most and walk the straightest was the best fellow. Indeed, some of our ministers were not entirely free from this habit. It is said that one of them was frequently so excited with ardent spirits, that he would preach until sunset. This town was settled with "Scotch Irish," with increasing habits of intemperance, which elicited the following remark from a gentleman residing in Springfield, while passing through the town. Looking at the old church, he said, — "You have a high church and a low steeple, a drunken priest and cursed people."

For the first ten years of this century the annual sale of intoxicating drinks in this town was probably not less than fifty hogsheads. Merchants without keeping the "striped pig" could do but little business. Indeed, those who were most liberal in treating their customers, sold the most goods.

But not all who engaged in the traffic were successful. Some years since we found in a temperance paper the following statement:

"There have been in Blandford since the incorporation of the town, thirty-eight taverners. Of these, three died of delirium tremens; seventeen became intemperate; one died in the poor house; eighteen lost all their property; seventeen did not improve their pecuniary condition by the business; *three only* acquired property; four were cursed with intemperate wives; twenty-five sons and four daughters became intemperate."

All persons, in those days, partook of this poisonous beverage. It was kept in the family and administered



in various ways. We state these facts to give a correct idea of the times. But that period has passed away, and fairer skies are spread over, and a brighter sun shines upon us. We are happy, also, to state, that the ministry did much in bringing about a reform. The name of Keep, a noble name and borne by a no less noble man, cannot be here omitted without dereliction of regard and duty. Twelve years before the general temperance reform, he took the lead in this grand enterprise, and has imposed upon the inhabitants a lasting debt of gratitude. Let his name be embalmed, as a most precious relic, in the memories of all the people ! The names of A. M. Collins, and other good men of the Congregational church who have aided in this glorious cause, might be recorded here ; but after the time of the Rev. Mr. Keep, none operated single-handed and alone. We have quite too much intemperance at the present time ; but I trust we are no longer peculiar.

In 1837 the town instructed the selectmen "not to approbate any person to sell spirituous liquors the ensuing year." For several years the town passed a similar vote ; and in April last, the town gave a decided majority for the present board of county commissioners.

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## MANUFACTURES.

Although the inhabitants of this town are principally employed in agricultural pursuits, its fine water-power

is by no means neglected. At the falls, in the north village, the stream descends one hundred and fifty feet within less than the same number of rods; affording several excellent mill sites.

About the year 1812, A. M. Collins, and others, formed a company for the purpose of manufacturing woolen goods here; and the materials for erecting a factory, and the necessary machinery, were purchased. But the sudden depression of business at the close of the war, induced them to abandon the project. In 1822 another company was formed, under the firm of Sprague, Gibbs, and Lyman, who completed the undertaking and manufactured that kind of goods for several years, and then dissolved, not having realized very large profits. In 1825 Mr. Freegrace Norton became proprietor, and he soon after built a second factory and managed their operations successfully. In 1838 Mr. Edwin Ely became associated with him as a partner, whose manly course in his public and social relations, has gained for him a high reputation for integrity, candor, and practical ability. They also have a tannery under their control, and are doing an extensive business. In 1832 a paper-mill for the manufacture of wrapping-paper was erected by Lyman Gibbs, Esq., and is now carried on by Messrs. W. H. & O. F. Gibbs. The tannery of David Bates, at the South part, and that of Jarvis Osborn at the center, are profitably employed. There are also several woodenware manufactories, which are doing a good business.

The value of woolen goods, leather, paper, woodenware, &c., manufactured annually in the north village is \$50,000.

## MINERALS.

We are furnished with the following catalogue of minerals found in our town, by Dr. SHURTLEFF, a native of the town, now residing in Westfield :

*Carbonate of Lime* at North Blandford ; white, coarsely granular, containing probably Augite in such quantities as will make an attempt to reduce it to quicklime, impracticable.

A stratified bed of *Serpentine* occurs in the same neighborhood, containing grains of *Chromate of Iron* interspersed through a considerable portion of the southern and eastern half of the bed. It also occurs in tuberculous masses of several pounds. It contains about thirty per cent. of the oxide of chrome. The attempt made to work it has been abandoned.

There is a very good bed of *Steatite* on the farm of John Osborn. It has been considerably worked for several years. At the same locality are beautiful specimens of crystallized green and white *Actinolite* ; the green actinolite most beautifully radiated. *Chlorite*, *Foliated Green Talc*, and *Asbestos*.

The richest specimens of *Crystallized Actinolite* in the State are found in boulders in the south-west part of the town.

*Octohedral Crystals of Iron* in talcose mica slate.

*Mammillary Calcedony* in small boulders.

Rich specimens of *Kyanite* in fragments about town.

*Anthophyllite* in a stone wall on the road to East Granville.

Very good specimens of *Rose Quartz*.



*Crystals of Schorl* in *Limpid Quartz* beautifully radiated, on the farm of A. Shurtleff. Near this locality is a large boulder of coarse *Granite* with flesh-colored *Felspar*.

*Black Serpentine* containing *Schiller Spar*.

Coarse granular *Limestone*, containing plates of *Graphite* in a boulder near the Congregational meeting-house.

*Sulphuret of Molybdena*, — rather rare.

*Crystals of Garnets*.

*Mussite*, — *Prismatic Mica*.

*Sulphuret of Iron*.

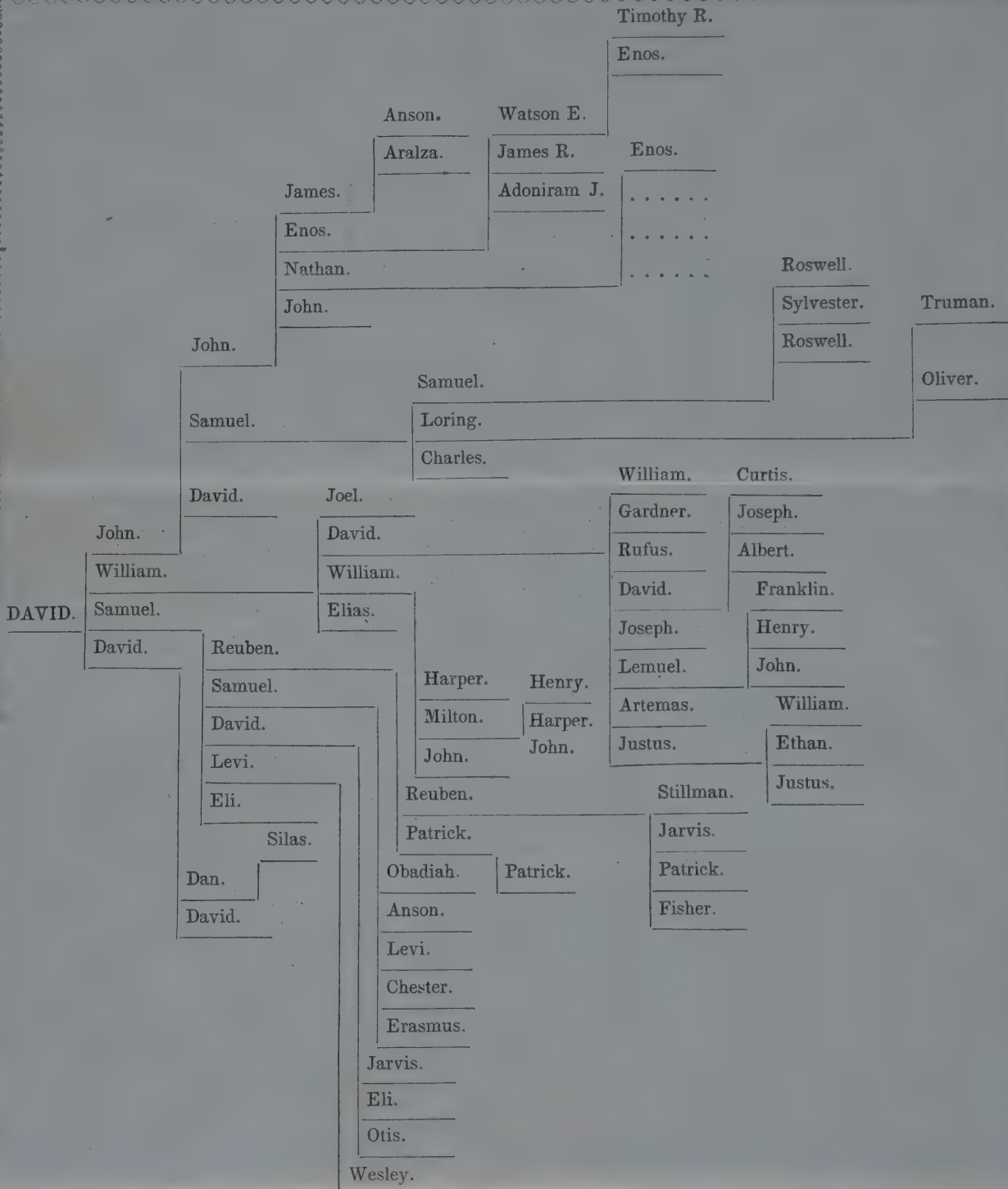
About the year 1795, John Baird, who lived in the north part of the "second division," discovered a mass of lead and silver ore near the north line of the town. He cast a portion of it into balls, and sent one pound of it by Mr. Knox, then our Representative, to Boston, to be analyzed. It was proved to contain nine ounces of lead and two ounces of silver to the pound. A number of gentlemen from Boston made Mr. Baird an offer, which would make him independently rich, if he would show them the place where he had discovered the ore. He went from home in a clear sun-shiny day through the wilderness into a valley which united with the Chester river. The fog from the river rendered said valley so dark, that it frightened Baird, who was superstitious, to such a degree that neither money nor friends could induce him ever after to visit the place. Hundreds have searched for that mine, but have never discovered it. There is no doubt but that if found, it might be worked to great pecuniary advantage.



# GENEALOGY OF DAVID BOIES,

Who was the first settler of that name in the town of Blandford, Mass.

Arranged by JAMES R. BOIES.





## THE FIRST SETTLERS.

The first settlers of this town were called "Scotch Irish," from the fact that their ancestors migrated from Scotland to Ireland. Being in that country deprived of civil and religious freedom, their descendants fled to this country and settled in Hopkinton (now Sutbury). Thence they removed to Blandford. We have been desirous of obtaining the genealogy of all the families who first settled here. But as the descendants of many of them have gone to the West, and other remote regions, we are only able to present the following : —

The name Boies was originally Du Boyce, and their progenitor was from France. But during the persecution of the Protestants, from Charles the Ninth to Louis the Thirteenth, when the Protestant power was crushed by the influence of Cardinal Richelieu, he fled to Scotland and there took the name of Boies. Subsequently, amidst the convulsions which followed the reign of Oliver Cromwell, he went to Ireland, and afterwards removed to America. As nearly as can be ascertained, Deacon David Boise came to this country about the year 1727, settled in Hopkinton, and afterwards removed to Blandford, where he died in 1752, aged sixty-three years. The names of his male descendants may be seen in the the "Boise Tree," furnished us by a descendant.

Mrs. T. S. CHAFFEE, daughter of Rufus Blair, Esq., furnished us with the following : —

The Blair family originated in Scotland, where many of that name yet remain. They probably removed to Ireland during the early part of Cromwell's rule, and settled upon that part of the island nearest Scotland. They, with others of their countrymen, appear to have formed a colony retaining the peculiar religious and political views of their own country. In 1720, David Blair, with his family of twelve children, embarked for the American colonies. They arrived at Boston the same year, and in a few months removed to Worcester, which became their home.

David Blair had eleven children : Matthew, John, James, William, Robert, Joseph, Sarah, Dolly, Mary, Betsey, and David.

Matthew was the oldest son. He settled in Hopkinton, but afterwards removed to Blandford, and became one of the pioneers in the settlement of the town.

John was ten years old when his father removed to this country. He settled in Worcester, and died in 1796, aged eighty-six years.

James settled in Rutland, and died there.

David settled in Western, now Warren, and died there about 1790, being eighty-five years old.

William went to Nova Scotia.

Joseph, who was the youngest of the family, remained at Worcester, and died there.

Robert removed to Blandford and purchased that tract of land now called "The Gore." The original purchase consisted of five hundred acres. Here he

built a log house for the accommodation of his family, and began to clear the land. The whole region about was one unbroken forest, and the foot-path which led to the nearest fort, a distance of two miles, was through the same undisturbed wild of nature. He remained a few years, when his fear of Indians and the distance from the fort induced him to return to Worcester. The journey was performed upon horseback, carrying his wife and three children and household furniture with him. They staid five years in Worcester, and then returned to Blandford. Mr. Blair was chosen deacon of the Presbyterian Church, and served many years in that capacity. He died in 1802.

Matthew Blair had six sons and four daughters. Two sons and a daughter settled here, Matthew, Robert, and Sarah who married Mr. John Hamilton. Matthew was twice married, and had seven sons and one daughter, — Robert, Matthew, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, and Anna : Adam and James were the children by his last marriage.

David Blair had four children ; Samuel, Williams, Ashel (who settled in Cherry Valley, N. Y., had one daughter), and Arlina (who married Dea. Lyman Shepherd of Granville.)

Robert Blair had six children ; Robert, David, Dolly, Asa, Rufus, and Hannah.

Robert Blair had eight children ; Robert, Hannah, Jonas, Deborah, Sally, Rachel, Sherman, and Juba.

Hannah married Mr. Hunter ; they had ten children : Robert, Almira, Hannah, Catharine, Orpha, Marcia, Samuel, Elvira, John, and Mary.

Deborah married Mr. Bowditch. They had four



children: John, Jonas, Mary, and Julia. She afterwards married Mr. Eastman and had two children, Benjamin and Rachel.

Sally Blair married Ashel Blair, and had one child, Arlina.

Robert Blair had one child, Virgil.

Jonas Blair was lost at sea. He was unmarried.

Sherman Blair (who settled in New Haven), had nine children: Robert, Grace, John, Mary, Elizabeth, George, Frank, Edwin, and James.

Rachel Blair was unmarried, and lived in Blandford, respected and beloved by a large circle of friends.

Julia Blair was unmarried, and died at New Haven.

Asa Blair had seven children; Russell, William, Asa, Polly, Electa, Charles, and Betsey. William is a lawyer, and resides in Westfield; has two children, William and Helen. Asa is a clergyman, and resides in Kent, Conn. He had one son. Electa married Mr. Loring Watson. They had six children; Dolly Ann, Myra, Loring, Electa, Emily, and Jane. Polly Blair married Mr. Wisewald. They had one son, Oliver. Betsey Blair married Mr. William Watson, of Albany. Charles Blair had four children, Lewis, Julia, Mary, and Nelson. Lewis died at Springfield, Ohio, in September, 1849.

Dolly Blair married Mr. David Boies. They had eleven children, Gardner, Rufus, Dolly, Joseph, David, Lemuel, Orpha, William, Cynthia, Artemas, and Justus. Hannah Blair married Mr. Samuel Boies. They had one son, Obadiah. Rufus Blair had six children: Samuel, Phineas, Dolly, Rufus, Sylvester, and Increase. He died in October, 1800, aged forty-

two years. Samuel Blair had eight children : Justus, Chauncey, Samuel, Caroline, Lyman, William, Ann, and Eliza. Phineas Blair was a lawyer, and resided in Boston. He died in June, 1848, aged sixty-five years. Dolly Blair married Mr. Ashel Lyman, and resides in Cortland, N. Y. They had five children : Ann, Ashel, George, Franklin, and Henry.

Matthew, Jacob, Isaac, and Adam married, and settled in this town. James died at the age of twenty-two. Robert enlisted in the army, and died of the small-pox at Quebec, about the time that Gen. Montgomery was killed. Jacob had seven children : Reuben, John, James, Jacob, Nathan, Elizabeth, and Patty. Elizabeth married Mr. Morton. John and James reside in the State of Ohio. Reuben Blair had eight children : Samuel, Polly, Betsey, Truman, Julia, Martha, Maria, and Vincent. Samuel O. Blair had six children : Caroline, Judson, Edmund, Henrietta, Lester, and Sidney. Truman Blair had four children : Cornelia, Joseph, Mary, and Henry. Julia Blair married Mr. Eli Osborn : they had six children : Dwight, Edson, Vincent, Aurelia, Helen and Lucia. Vincent Blair was drowned in an attempt to ford a river in Missouri Territory.

James Blair had eight children : Polly, Sally, Diantha, Mercy, Ann, Franklin, Marion, and Elizabeth.

Nathan Blair had ten children : Tyrril, Minerva, James, Sherman, David, Daniel, Amanda, Leveret, Reuben, and Mary Ann. Amanda Blair married Mr. Alanson Moore. They had four children : Mary, Jane, Henry, and Nathan.

Jacob Blair had two children : Benjamin and Dolly.

John Blair had ten children : Lucretia, Henry, John,

Jacob, Alfred, Russell, Semantha, Ann, Chauncey, and Smith. Adam Blair had six children: Adam, Linus, Thrall, Polly, Patty, and Creusa. Adam had two children: James and Lester. James had four children: Chauncey, Henry, James, and Curtiss. Lester had one son, Homer. Linus Blair had four children: Creusa, Franklin, Nancy, and Mary. Thrall had two sons: William and Linus. Polly had two children: Mary Ann and Hiram.

Timothy Blair was son of John Blair, of Worcester. He had no children. He lived in Blandford above fifty years, and died in 1837, aged eighty-five years.

David Blair was son of David Blair, of Warren. He settled in Blandford. He had two sons, David and Ashel.

Rufus Blair died April 14, 1844, aged fifty-four years. He had five children: Catharine, Melissa, Increase, Edwin, and Patrick. Catharine married Mr. T. S. Chaffee. She had two children: Sherman and Theodore. Melissa married Mr. Theodore Wilson. She had two children: Catharine and Melissa.

Sylvester Blair resided in Cortland, N. Y. He died at New York, in October, 1836, aged forty years.

De Witt Clinton had two children: Sylvester and Nancy.

Increase Blair died at Hudson, N. Y., in October, 1821, aged twenty-one years.

Mr. James Nye was of English descent. He came to this town from Rhode Island in the year 1805. He was the first farmer who made cheese among us; and in this pursuit he was successful. Although in ordinary



circumstances when he came to town, it is said that he and his sons at one time owned one thousand acres of land. Mr. Nye was a good farmer, and although he liked sporting, never neglected his farm. When he first came to this town wild game was very plenty. "It has been calculated that the family of Nyes have destroyed more noxious animals than all the rest of the town." Foxes look wild when *they* are on their track. We unhesitatingly pronounce them the greatest hunters in this region of country. Mr. Nye had seven sons and four daughters: George, Jonathan, Hazzard, James, Dennis, Clark, Randall, Sally,<sup>a</sup> Rebecca, Alice, and Mercy. All of these children settled around him, and could be called together at a few hours' notice.

George had twelve children: Jonathan, George, William, James, Barber, Polly, Dewey, Ann, Lucy, Almira, Julia, and Sarah.

Jonathan had four children: Welcome, Henry, Nelson and Mary.

Hazzard had two children: Amos and Lydia Ann.

James had four children: Gilbert, Milo, Justin, and Maria.

Clark has three children: Lyman, Lewis, and Emily.

Randall has three children: William, George, and Almeda.

Two brothers by the name of Robert and David Crosby, emigrated to this country from England, about the year 1750. Robert, who was a preacher of the Gospel, settled in Chatham, Conn. David settled in New Hampshire. Robert had one son, named David, who was born in 1760. He joined the continental army

and braved the hardships of the revolution. He was married about the year 1783 to Grace Stephens of Chatham; came to Blandford and settled on the farm now owned by the Nyes. He had six children: Robert, Roderick, David, Louisa, Logan, and John. He moved from Blandford to Stockbridge, where he buried his wife; from thence to Batavia, then the frontier of the New York settlement. Robert became a sailor, and died at sea. Roderick and David joined the army, and were surrendered prisoners of war to the British with Hull's army. Roderick managed to escape, but David died a prisoner at Detroit. Louisa died quite young. John removed to Meadsville, Pa., where he now resides. Logan is the only one of the family who remains in the town that gave him birth. He married Sally, daughter of Capt. William Knox, in 1815, and had two children, Alonzo and William. His wife died in 1822. He married again in 1824, Olive, daughter of Solomon Ferguson, and had two children, Sarah and Homer. Homer, a promising young man, was killed August 5th, 1845, by being thrown from, and run over by, a cart. This was a sore affliction to the family.

Samuel Ferguson, one of the first settlers, had three sons: Samuel, James, and John.

John was a man of talent and influence. He accepted many important stations of trust in the town; was chosen Captain, served in the revolution, and died in 1792. He had eight children: Mary, Eleanor, Sarah, Hannah, Isabella, Dorothy, John, and Samuel.

It is difficult for us to trace the descendants of the Ferguson family, there being none of that name now in town.

Mary married Mr. John Colleston, who is now living at the advanced age of ninety-four. They had six children: Arby, John F., Samuel, Polly, Dolly, and Ann. John F. is the only son now living in town; he has three children: George, Albert, and Frances.

John Watson, of Scotch descent, came to this town from Leicester, in 1788. He married Sarah, daughter of Dea. Israel Gibbs. He died in 1825, aged seventy-eight. His wife died in 1831, aged eighty years. He had eleven children: Lois, Dolly, John, Samuel, William (who died when two years old), Hannah, Oliver, James, Loring, Sarah, and William. Lois married Mr. John Babcock of Harpersfield. She died in 1836, aged sixty-six. Dolly married Mr. Noah Shepard of Westfield. She died in 1829, aged fifty-seven years. They had one son, Marble, who now resides in town. John married Dorcas Lloyd. He died in 1834, aged sixty years. Samuel died in 1777, aged one year. Hannah married Mr. William Henry, and died in 1812, aged thirty-two. Oliver married Mary Loring, and had seven children: Caroline, Spencer, Mary Ann, Franklin, Julia, Maria, and Joseph. Loring Watson married Electa Blair. He had six children: Loring, Dolly Ann, Myra, Electa, Emily, and Jane. He is now a merchant in New York. Dolly Ann married Rev. Mr. Bishop, and died at their residence in Ohio, in 1844. Sarah Watson married Dr. Little, of Middlefield, and died in 1833, aged forty-two.



years. William Watson married Betsey Blair. He now resides in Albany.

Jonathan Shepard came from Westfield to Blandford about the year 1770. He had four sons: Jonathan, Ezra, Elijah, Oliver, and several daughters. Jonathan had five sons and seven daughters: Larnard, Jonathan, Chandler, Eli, Bradford, Electa, Abigail, Letitia, Mary, Arlina, Polina, and Sarah. Larnard lived and died in Hartford, Conn. He had seven children: Larnard, George, Alonzo, Hiram, Sarah, Maria, and Harriet. Jonathan had eleven children: Jonathan, Lucius, Joseph, Norman, Philander, Henry, George, Almira, Cynthia, Caroline, and Fidelia. Chandler settled in the state of New York. Eli has seven children: Harriet, Nancy, Lester, Joseph, Loring, Nathan, and William.

Ezra Shepard had three sons: Strong, William, and Leavett. For many years he resided in the Western part of New York.

Elijah Shepard settled and died in Oneida County, New York. He had seven sons and two daughters: Elijah, Luther, Riley, Hinsdale, Joseph, David, and Jonathan. David has been a presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the Oneida Conference, for a number of years.

Oliver Shepard had five children: Linus, Lyman, Oliver, David, and Sarah. Linus had four children: William (who died when eighteen years of age), James, Elvira, and Levancia. Lyman resides in Granville; is a deacon of the Congregational Church; has five children: Celestia, Franklin, Wilbur, William, and

Joseph. Oliver resided in Ohio, and died in 1849. He had two sons: Orlando and Addison. David has four children: Elizabeth, Sarah, Denslow, and Homer. Sarah married Mr. Milton Boies. She died in 1843.

Robert Wilson and his family came from Ireland to this country. John, his son, was eight years old when the family landed at Boston. He resided in that city several years, and was captain of a merchant vessel. He married Elizabeth Gregg, sister of Col. Gregg, and cousin of Gen. Starke, revolutionary officers. He then came to Blandford, and purchased the farm where Henry Wilson now resides. He lived and died on that place. He was much respected, and for several years was one of the selectmen and assessors of the town. He had three sons and two daughters. John married Margaret, daughter of Deacon Samuel Boies. Andrew married Martha Baird. George married Sally Morrison. The daughters married Deacon Levi Boies and Mr. Israel Gibbs. Andrew lived and died upon his father's farm. He had a large family of children, of whom but one (Col. Justin Wilson) is now living. Justin married Semantha Baird; they have two sons: Theodore married Melissa Blair. Henry married Abby Baird. Father, son, and grandfather, each married a lady by the name of Baird.

The Brackets came from Scotland. John Bracket came into this town in 1793, from North Haven, and settled upon the place now occupied by Ely Bracket. He had nine children: Francis, Silas, Ithia, Ely, Lydia, Lucy, John, Eunice, and Banojah. John moved into the

woods, and where he settled cut down a large hemlock tree, and built an oven on the top of the stump, with clay and mortar, where they for several years used to bake their bread. Mr. Bracket was for six years in the revolutionary war. He was at Saratoga when Burgoyne was taken. During the fore part of the war he enlisted nine months in a privateer, under Gen. Hopkins. During this time they succeeded in taking seven British ships out of a fleet of nine sails, all of which were brought into Boston. Mr. Bracket drew a pension until he died, which was in 1845, at the age of eighty-six.

In 1737 William Knox came from Belfast, in Ireland, and settled in Blandford, upon the farm where Elijah Knox now lives. He had three sons: John, William, and Adam.

John had four sons: William, Elijah, John, and James. William had five sons and eight daughters: Edward, John, William, Titus, Orrin, Rachel, Nancy, Jane, Betsey, Mary, Sally, and Olive. Elijah had seven sons and four daughters: Alanson, Ranar, Elijah, Curtiss, Justus, Reuben, Joseph, Eleanor, Lois, Hannah, and Ruth. John had six sons and three daughters: Henry, Elijah, John, Loring, Wells, Russell, Betsey, Rachel, and Sally. James settled in Nobletown, N. Y.

William had six sons: William, Samuel, John, Nathan, David, and James. William had three sons and five daughters: William, Levi, Justin, Isabel, Eleanor, Thankful, Mary, and Sally. Samuel had two sons and two daughters: Eli, Samuel, Lucinda, and Betsey. John had four sons and three daughters: Henry, John, Gerry, Hervy, Clarissa, Harriet, and Philomela.



Nathan had five sons and four daughters: James, Nathan, Seymour, Samuel, Eli, Rachel, Orpha, Polly, and Cynthia. David had three sons and three daughters: Sardis, Lester, Albert, Lois, Anna, and Polly.

James died in this town. He had no children.

Alden had four sons and three daughters: Oliver, David, William, John, Elizabeth, Jane, and Eleanor. William and John settled in Pennsylvania. John was Judge of the Court in that State several years.

William Gibbs, of Lenharn, Yorkshire, England, for signal services, obtained a grant from the King of England of a tract of land four miles square, in the center of the town. He had three sons; the oldest remained at home and inherited his father's property. The two younger sons learned the ship carpenter's trade, and when they became of age, their elder brother gave them money, and they came to Boston. One of them settled upon the Cape, and the other in Newport, R. I. The one (name not known) who settled upon the Cape, had children, and one of his sons moved to Hopkinton. He had two sons, Isaac and Israel, and one daughter, Sarah. Sarah married a man by the name of Duntly. Israel married Mary Hamilton, a lady of Irish descent. Isaac and Sarah disowned him, because of his marriage with an Irish girl. This induced Israel to join the "Scotch Irish" company, who were on the eve of starting to inhabit this region, then a wilderness.

Israel had four sons and four daughters: John, Israel, Ephraim, Isaac, Mary, Rebecca, Elizabeth, and Sarah. All of the children except Elizabeth lived to be over eighty years of age.



John had four children: Israel, Samuel, Mary, and Ellen. Israel had four children: Betsey Ann, Polina, Fanny, and Julia. He settled in the State of New York. Samuel\* had four children: Lyman, Olive, Lester E., and Jane. Lyman has three sons: William H., Orlando F., and Charles. Olive married Mr. Roland Smith. They have five children, and reside in Russell, N. Y. Lester E. had nine children: Julia, Jarvis, Samuel, David, Isabella, Maria, Russell, Edward, and Edson. Julia married Mr. Edward Thompson. She has five children, and resides in Bethlehem, Conn. Jarvis has one son, Howard. Jane married Col. Simeon Loring. They had six children: Thomas (now reading law), Rollin S. (now studying medicine), Dexter H., Samuel, Cordelia, and Eliza Jane. Mary married Mr. Ezra Baird. They had one son and two daughters. They reside in Jefferson, N. Y. Ellen had four children: Nancy, Eliza, Marietta, and Henry. Mr. Baird and his wife died in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1848, where three of his children now reside.

Israel had nine children, Elijah, Levi, Reuben, Nathan, Silas, Mary, Rachel, John, and Nancy. Elijah† had

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\* Previous to his death he (my grandfather) remarked to me, "that within fifty years all of the best farms in town would belong to poor men's sons." I believe that prophecy will be fulfilled within twenty-five years; for since his decease, which was about ten years ago, many of the very best farms have actually gone into the hands of "poor men's sons."

† He left the largest property of any farmer in town. Although his education was imperfect, his sound judgment and natural good sense gave him a very prominent position in society. A few years before his death he called upon a magistrate and wished to add the

eleven children: Loring, Levi, Eli, Dwight, Lucius, Henry, Israel, Bradner, Orilla, Fanny, and Betsey Ann. Loring had eight children: Mary Ann, Nancy, Caroline, Louisa, Alonzo, Lafayette, Nelson, and Frank. Levi has three children: Achsah, Maria, and William. Dwight has six children: Sylvia, Rowena, Eliza, Mary, Russell, and Vinson. Lucius has one son, Elijah. Israel has five children: Mary, Lucilla, Linneus, Israel, and Ernest. Bradner has five children: John, Julia Ann, Jane, Emergene, and Elijah. Rebecca married Mr. Ebenezer Patterson. They had a large family. Nathan had five children. Silas had two sons and two daughters: Spelman, Nathan, Nancy, and Betsey Ann. Mary married Mr. James Babcock, and settled in the town of Scott, N. Y. Levi had thirteen children. He removed to the State of New York, but has one son, Eli, residing in Becket, who has two children: Orrin and Mary. Rachel married Mr. William Knox. They had two sons: Leveret and Eli. John had five daughters: Polly, Polina, Lucinda, Julia Ann, and Nancy. Nancy married Mr.

following codicil to his will, having heard that some of his children were determined to break the will after his decease: —

“Whereas, many estates have been spent in law by children while endeavoring to obtain more of their father's property than he designed to give them, and whereas *my* children may be as likely as others to do the same; therefore, if any of my children shall attempt to break this my last will and testament after it shall have been read to them, it is my will, design, and wish, that that child or those children who shall attempt to break this my last will and testament, shall have no part of my property; and that the same shall be equally divided among my other children, who shall be satisfied with their father's bounty.”

Rufus Boies. They had seven children, and reside in Homer, N. Y.

Isaac had eight children : Martin, Oliver, Jonas, Chester, Isaac, Linus, Sally, and Hannah. Martin had six children : Luther, Chester, Curtiss, Lois, Anice, and Anna. Oliver had seven children. He settled in Harpersfield, N. Y. Jonas had five children. Eli, Lewis, Chauncy, Harriet, and Polina. He, also, settled in Harpersfield. Isaac had three daughters : Mary Ann, Emily, and Eunice. Linus had eleven children : Sarah, Dolly Ann, Lydia, Harriet, Marietta A., Caroline, Ellen M., Jonas, Nelson D., Joseph A., and Arthur.

Ephraim had seven children : Abner, Russell, Sarah, Eunice, Elizabeth, Rhoda, and Polly. Abner had seven children : Peter, Charles, Ephraim, George, Franklin, Nancy, and Mary Ann. Porter has eight children : Catharine, Helen, Charles, Abner, Mary, Rowena, Sarah, and Henry. Charles has five children : Reuben, Rebecca, Charles, Abby, and Francis. Ephraim has eight children. George has two children : Sheldon and Henry. Franklin has one son, William. Nancy married Mr. Orrin Fairman. They had six children. Mary Ann married Mr. Chandler Cartter. She died in 1846. Russell resides in Lanesboro'. Sarah married Mr. Benjamin Bruce. They had ten children, and resided in Jefferson, N. Y. Eunice married Mr. Israel Lloyd. They had five children : Sergus, William, Maurice, Cynthia, and Caroline. Elizabeth married Mr. David Boies. They had ten children : Joseph, Curtiss, Albert, Sylvester, Almira, Caroline, Catharine, Orpha, Nancy, and Mary. Rhoda married Mr. William Culver. They had three

children: Horace, Mary, Marcia. Polly married Mr. Linus Blair.

Mary married Mr. Wilson. They had six children: Settled in Cherry Valley.

Rebecca married Mr. John Cannon. They had nine children.

Elizabeth married Mr. William Lusk. They had ten children.

Sarah married Mr. John Watson.

## TOWN CLERKS.

	Chosen.		Chosen.
James Hassard,	1742	David McConoghey,	1794
David Boies,	1745	Joseph Bull,	1805
John Knox,	1748	Reuben Blair,	1809
David Boies,	1750	Alanson Knox,	1811
David McConoghey,	1752	Orrin Sage,	1819
Wm. Haston,	1753	Alanson Knox,	1821
Robert Black,	1754	Russell A. Wilson,	1830
Robert Henry,	1757	Orrin Sage,	1832
Wm. Boies,	1762	Samuel S. Day,	1836
Robert Black,	1766	Orrin Sage,	1838
Wm. Boies,	1767	Enos Boies,	1839
Judah Bement,	1773	T. S. Chaffee,	1842
David McConoghey,	1779	D. P. Robinson,	1849
Robert Blair,	1778	Col. Justin Wilson,	1850
Samuel Sloper,	1790		

The present board of Selectmen are: T. S. Chaffee, Leverett Sackett, John Parks.

The present town-house was built in 1822.



## REPRESENTATIVES FROM BLANDFORD.

In the years not named, the town was not represented.

Wm. Knox, }  
Wm. Carnahan, } *To Provincial Congress—1775.*

For many years the town could not get any one to accept the office of Representative, and as appears from the Records, "Voted to send if we can get any one to accept."

### UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

	Chosen.		Chosen.
Timothy Blair,	1787	Andrew Wilson, }	1814
John Ferguson,	1789	Alanson Knox, }	
Reuben Boies,	1792	Alanson Knox, }	1815
" "	1793	Isaac Lloyd, }	
" "	1794	Isaac Lloyd, }	1816
Jedediah Smith,	1795	David Boies, }	
" "	1796	Abner Gibbs,	1817
Reuben Boies,	1797	" "	1818
William Knox,	1799	" "	1819
" "	1801	David Boies, 2d,	1820
Eli P. Ashmun,	1803	David Blair, 2d,	1821
" "	1804	Reuben Boies, Jr.,	1825
David Boies,	1805	" " "	1827
" "	1806	Alanson Knox, }	1828
Joseph Bull,	1807	Israel Cannon, }	
Edward Pincheon.	1808	Reuben Boies, Jr.,	1829
Samuel Knox,	1811	Orrin Sage,	1830
Alanson Knox,	1812	" "	1831
Alanson Knox, }		David Parks, }	
Andrew Wilson, }	1813	Lyman Gibbs, }	1831

Justin Wilson,	}	1832	S. S. Day,	1837
Lester E. Gibbs,			S. W. Loring,	1839
Orrin Sage,	}	1833	Horatio G. Lewis,	1840
Logan Crosby,			Watson E. Boies,	1841
Kilborne Bates,	}	1834	Edwin Ely,	1842
Milton Boies,			Leverett Sackett,	1843
Curtiss Hall,	}	1835	Sharon Bradley,	1844
Russell A. Wilson,			Vincent Bradley,	1845
Daniel Collins,	}	1836	Rev. Amos G. Bowker,	1848
Adam Blair,			Albert Knox,	1849

In the year 1820, Enos Boise and Abner Gibbs were delegates to the Convention to revise the State Constitution.

## SENATORS.

Hon. Alanson Knox of this town, was a member of the Senate from Hampden County, in the year 1820; Hon Orrin Sage in the years 1835 and '36; and Hon. Reuben Boies, Jr. in the years 1837 and '38.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Justus Ashmun,  
 Russell Atwater,  
 Jedediah Smith,  
 David Boies,  
 Reuben Boies,  
 William Knox,  
 Reuben Boies, Jr.

Lyman Gibbs,  
 Enos Boise,  
 Orrin Sage,  
 Justus Boise,  
 Rufus Blair,  
 Eli Pease,  
 D. P. Robinson.

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## PHYSICIANS.

The following is a list of Physicians who have practiced in Blandford :—

Dr. King	Commenced practice	1750
“ Brewster	“ “	1780
“ Elmer	“ “	1795
“ Nathan Blair	“ “	1805
“ Eli Hall	“ “	1807
“ Silas P. Wright	“ “	1818
“ Horatio Bryant	“ “	1838
“ Selah P. Webb	“ “	1848
“ Wm. B. Miller	“ “	1849

## CONCLUSION.

We may, in conclusion, appropriately notice the natural peculiarities and advantages of our town. It is situated upon the summit of that branch of the Green Mountains which extends from Vermont into the western part of this State, and is highly celebrated, not only for the industry and enterprise of its inhabitants, for the fertility of its soil, and for numerous reasons of similar character, but also for the extreme purity and excellency of its atmosphere, and for the abundance of fish and game with which its many streams and forests are stocked. And in each and all of these respects, we may well consider Blandford as little inferior to any place in the Union.

Its scenery is most delightfully grand, wild and picturesque, and to the experienced eye of the artist, nothing can surpass the gorgeous views which Nature has here scattered with lavish profusion. The dense forest, the verdant hill, the flowery vale, the lofty mount, all conspire to flood the mind with emotions of pleasure and praise.

Its brooks trickle down rugged rocks, along blossoming dells, meandering through grassy meadows and entangled thickets, overflowing with brook-fish of the choicest kind and most sparkling hue. The ponds, of which there are many, likewise abound with fish of larger size and excellent quality, and the forests shelter game of almost infinite variety of species. We may here fitly remark, for the benefit of strangers, that good accommodations are furnished in regular sportsman-like style, by the gentlemanly landlords of the Hotels, both at North Blandford and at



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the Center of the town. And also the feeble invalid, weary traveler, or exhausted student, may at these places, have strict attention paid to their various wants and necessities.

The innumerable blessings which are thus showered upon us, should induce the bestowal of everlasting praise and adoration upon the Divine Being, through whose bounteous benefaction they are received,









